

[8th August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

District Headquarters of Bihar, for which equipment orders have been placed:

Bokaro, Gaya, Daltonganj, Dumka, Hazaribagh, Katihar, Sasaram, Saharsa, Samastipur, Supaul and Siwan.

- (iv) It is also proposed to progressively provide Internet nodes in all District Headquarters of Bihar.

Replacement of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885

1742. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a legislation providing for creation of a Communications Commission on the lines of the Federal Communications Commission of the US to handle all the regulating and licensing functions in the area of telecom, broadcasting and internet is proposed to be introduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether proposed legislation will replace Indian Telegraph Act of 1885 and other such old laws, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Sir, a Group has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister with one of the mandates to prepare the draft of new legislation to replace Indian Telegraph Act, 1885; keeping in view the rapid convergence of telecom, computers, television and electronics. The Group is examining all these aspects. The Group has not yet submitted its report.

Siphoning of Bank Drafts

1743. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been several complaints about the siphoning of Bank Drafts worth crores of rupees by the city's postal department employees in connivance with the bank employees and the middlemen having bank accounts;